

14/25/60
005-68-1193

21 MAR 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Support)

SUBJECT: Eighteen Month Duty Tour for Project [REDACTED]

REFERENCE: DD/S 60-0986, dated 8 March 1960, Same Subject

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1. The technical requirements of [REDACTED] are such that only a limited number of people in the entire Government are qualified to assume the duties involved. Even those people "qualified" must undergo considerable and continuing training to keep abreast of the rapidly changing state of art involved. You can appreciate why I am concerned over reducing the tour length to eighteen months in terms of its effect on recruitment, training, rotation and assignment.

2. As I recall, the Medical Staff first recommended an eighteen month tour of duty prior to the completion of permanent housing, recreation and other facilities at the site. I believe that site conditions have shown constant improvement and [REDACTED] is not nearly as undesirable a post as we all believed it to be a few months ago.

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3. A year ago the Project's reputation was such that we were receiving essentially no requests for assignment to [REDACTED] and the people out there were, in the main, anxious to be relieved. Things have changed very much for the better. Morale has been climbing steadily. You'll be interested in knowing that nineteen of the original twenty-eight [REDACTED] assignees have recently requested second tours or extensions as first, second or third choices on their FRQ's. In addition, one OT/R in the [REDACTED] station has strongly requested assignment to [REDACTED] for his next duty. I think you will agree that such requests reflect favorably on current conditions at the site and are significant when compared to the situation a few months ago. The one remaining major problem concerning assignees is medical support and I do not believe a change of six months in tours will alter such concern.

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4. I prefer to retain a two year tour period for personnel with dependents on post with the implicit understanding that families which fail to adjust, or for any other good reason, may be returned at the end of eighteen months with no stigma attached. This way, I can program on a two year basis and the people themselves can program their rentals and other personal affairs on the same basis. This approach would, I believe, accomplish the same practical effect as the [REDACTED] arrangement but with the significant difference that the contract option is in the favor of the Agency rather than the individuals whim.

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[REDACTED]
Director of Communications

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